

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-13 are requested to be cancelled. Claims 14 and 15 are currently being amended. Claims 20-22 are being added.

This amendment adds, changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

In the Office Action, claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Toyoda (U.S. Patent No. 6,335,966). Claim 14, as amended, recites that an image process apparatus comprises an image information input/output function that makes it possible to selectively access a predetermined image processing service via a network, a communication section for communicating, via the network, with a plurality of service providers that provide image processing service information, a compression/decompression control section for controlling compression/decompression of image information, an encryption control section for controlling encryption/decryption image information, and a service information database for storing the image processing service information provided by the plurality of service providers.

The image processing apparatus of claim 14 further comprises a control section for controlling a selection of whether to register the image processing service information acquired via the network in the service information database, or to temporarily utilize the image processing service information without registration, when registering the image processing service information in the service information database, and controlling storage in the service information database of communication information comprising at least one of a compression/decompression scheme used in the compression/decompression control section, an encryption/decryption scheme used in the encryption control section, or operational information.

Toyoda discloses a network system in which an IFAX makes an inquiry about the capability of a destination fax (abstract). If the destination fax is a G3 fax, then a FAX section of the IFAX carries out capability exchange in accordance with a normal fax procedure (col. 9, lines 28-35). If the destination fax is a network fax, the IFAX inquires about the capability information from a server, which provides the capability information if it is stored in an exchange table of the server (col. 9, lines 36-51). If the server does not have the capability information, then the IFAX inquires about the capability information from a DNS server (col. 10, lines 10-27). When the IFAX obtains capability information non-registered in the server, the IFAX registers the capability information in the server (col. 11, line 66 – col. 12, line 2).

In contrast to claim 14, Toyoda fails to disclose or suggest a control section for controlling a selection of whether to register the image processing service information acquired via the network in the service information database, or to temporarily utilize the image processing service information without registration, when registering the image processing service information in the service information database. Rather, Toyoda discloses that if the capability information is not registered, the IFAX causes the capability information to be registered, and thus fails to disclose or suggest a distinction between registering the capability information and temporarily using the capability information without registering it in a database. Claim 14 is therefore patentably distinguishable from Toyoda.

Claims 15-19 are patentably distinguishable from Toyoda by virtue of their dependence from claim 14, as well as their additional recitations. Claims 20-22 are patentably distinguishable from Toyoda for reasons analogous to claim 14.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

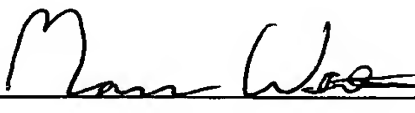
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment,


to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 12/21/05

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